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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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AIDE MÉMOIRE

OCT 8 1936

His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Addis Ababa has reported the issue of a decree by Marshal Graziani, a translation of which is annexed for convenience of reference, to regulate the importation of foreign non-Italian newspapers and periodicals into the territories of Addis Ababa and Shoa.

The effect of this decree which has not, so far as is known, yet been brought into force, is to prohibit the introduction of newspapers and periodicals except those specified on the list appended to it, which contains the name of only one newspaper published in the United Kingdom, the "Daily Mail", of none published in the United States and of a limited number of periodicals published in France and Germany. His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires has been informed by the Italian authorities that this list was drawn up to include the periodicals in which the local news-agent was interested, and that if it were desired that other English newspapers should be admitted a list should be supplied for incorporation in a supplementary decree.

It is not felt that the objectionable situation which would be created by the enforcement of this decree would be satisfactorily met by the proposal that the Italian authorities should be furnished with such a list of newspapers in view of the enormous number published in the

British/

365D-918/1

OCT 15 1936

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British Commonwealth of Nations which it would be scarcely practicable to enumerate but among which there would be no reason to discriminate. It is considered that a more reasonable solution would be that the Italian authorities in Addis Ababa should admit into the territories concerned all foreign newspapers and periodicals, with the exception only of those whose importation it might be considered desirable to prohibit on special grounds; and this is a suggestion which His Majesty's Government are inclined to instruct His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Addis Ababa to put forward if there are signs that the decree is to be put into force. At the same time in view of the possibility of the representatives of other governments at Addis Ababa taking similar action it is desired to know whether the United States Government share the views of His Majesty's Government in the matter. The French and German Governments are also being consulted for the same reason.

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON, D. C.,

October 5th, 1936.

COPY

Translation

THE VICEROY, GOVERNOR GENERAL OF ITALIAN EAST AFRICA,

In view of the necessity of determining which newspapers and reviews of foreign production may be introduced into the territories of Addis Ababa and Shoa:

Having regard to the Royal Decree-Law of the 1st June, 1936, XIV, no 1909, on the organisation and administration of Italian East Africa:

DECREES AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1.

In the territories of Addis Ababa and Shoa those newspapers and reviews of foreign production **may** be introduced which are indicated in the list annexed to the present decree, this list being signed by the principal Director of Civil and Political Affairs.

Article 2

The introduction of other newspapers and reviews, not included in the list mentioned in article 1, is prohibited.

Article 3

The clandestine introduction of the newspapers and reviews mentioned in article 2 will be punished in accordance with the law.

The present decree enters into force five

days/

days after the date of its promulgation.

Given at Addis Ababa,

(Signed) GRAZIANI

Viceroy.

LIST OF THE FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS AND REVIEWS WHOSE  
INTRODUCTION INTO THE TERRITORIES OF ITALIAN  
EAST AFRICA IS PERMITTED.

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French newspapers and reviews.

Le Journal	Mon Paris
Le Matin	Parasol
Excelsior	Paris Magazine
Le Temps	Beauté
Le Jour	Presse Médicale
L'Echo de Paris	Rire
L'Action Francaise	Cyrano
Petit Parisien	Aux Ecoutes
Petit Journal	Cri de Paris
Paris Soir	Mickey
L'Intransigeant	Vogue
Paris Midi	Fémina
Candide	Madame
Gringoire	Pour Vous
Je suis Partout	Mon Roman
Ric-Rac	Détective
Vendémiaire	Paris Plaisirs
Nouvelles Littéraires	Plaisirs de France
Aéro	Monte Clé Illustré
Illustration	La Science et la Vie
Le Mois	Je Sais Tout
Revue des Deux Mondes	Lectures pour Tous
Science et Voyages	Ciné Magazine
Vie Parisienne	Conferencia
Sourire	T.S.F. pour Tous
Sex Appeal	Revue de France

Various books and novels

Russian newspapers (Paris edition)

Renaissance	Dernières Nouvelles
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English newspapers and reviews

Daily Mail

German newspapers and reviews

Volkischer Beobachter	Illustrierte Presse
Berliner Tageblatt	Berliner Illustrirte Zeitung
Leipziger Tageblatt	Munchner
Zeitung	
Der Tag	Die Woche
Illustrierte Beobachter	Das Magazin
Die Grune Post	Wiener Magazin

Greek newspapers and reviews

Kathimerini	Romanzo
Acropolis	Dievassene
Athinaica Nea	Athinais
Estia	Naftica Hronica
Bonketo	Iconomikos Tahidromos
Theatris	Athitismos
Ebdomas	Pantheon
Ellas	Diaplasis Pedon

Arabic newspapers and reviews

Ahram

Al Balag

Director.

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It is not felt that the objectionable situation which would be created by the enforcement of this decree would be satisfactorily met by the proposal that the Italian authorities should be furnished with such a list of newspapers in view of the enormous number published in the

British Commonwealth of Nations which it would be scarcely practicable to enumerate but among which there would be no reason to discriminate. It is considered that a more reasonable solution would be that the Italian authorities in Addis Ababa should admit into the territories concerned all foreign newspapers and periodicals, with the exception only of those whose importation it might be considered desirable to prohibit on special grounds; and this is a suggestion which His Majesty's Government are inclined to instruct His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Addis Ababa to put forward if there are signs that the decree is to be put into force. At the same time in view of the possibility of the representatives of other governments at Addis Ababa taking similar action it is desired to know whether the United States Government share the views of His Majesty's Government in the matter. The French and German Governments are also being consulted for the same reason.

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L'Intransigeant	Vogue
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Gringoire	Pour Vous
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Athinaica Nea	Athinais
Estia	Naftica Hronica
Bonketo	Iconomikos Tahidromos
Theatis	Athitismos
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Candide	Madame
Gringoire	Pour Vous
Je suis Partout	Mon Roman
Ric-Rac	Détective
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Nouvelles Littéraires	Plaisirs de France
Aéro	Monte Clé Illustré
Illustration	La Science et la Vie
Le Mois	Je Sais Tout
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Theatis	Athitismos
Ebdomas	Pantheon
Ellas	Diaplasias Pedon

Arabic newspapers and reviews

Ahram

Al Balag

Director.

PREPARING OFFICE  
WILL INDICATE WHETHER

Collect

Charge Department

OR

Charge to

\$

VIA NAVAL RADIO

# TELEGRAM SENT

TO BE TRANSMITTED

CONFIDENTIAL CODE

NONCONFIDENTIAL CODE

PARTIAL

PLAIN

## Department of State DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington,

1936 OCT 8 PM 5 58

October 8, 1936.

8  
6P

AMLEGATION

DIVISION OF  
COMMUNICATIONS  
AND RECORDS

ADDIS ABABA (ETHIOPIA)

This cable was sent in confidential Code.  
It should be carefully paraphrased before  
being communicated to anyone. A

369

✓ British Embassy in Washington has brought to Department's attention the issuance of a decree by Marshal Graziani regulating importation into Ethiopia of foreign non-Italian newspapers. It is stated that effect of decree, which apparently has not yet been brought into force, is to prohibit introduction of newspapers and periodicals except those specified in an attached list, which contains only one British paper (the Daily Mail) and no American newspapers. Italian authorities have informed British Chargé d'Affaires in Addis Ababa that list included only papers in which local news agent was interested but that other English newspapers could be admitted if list were supplied for incorporation in supplementary decree.

British authorities consider it impracticable to enumerate large number of papers printed in United Kingdom, Dominions and British possessions or to discriminate among such papers. They consider it would be more reasonable for Italian authorities to admit all foreign newspapers and periodicals except those whose importation it might be desirable to prohibit on special grounds.

Enciphered by \_\_\_\_\_

Sent by operator \_\_\_\_\_ M., 19 \_\_\_\_\_

3650 • 0181

PREPARING OFFICE  
WILL INDICATE WHETHER  
Collect  
Charge Department  
OR  
Charge to  
\$

TELEGRAM SENT

Department of State

10/6-4:26  
10/8-11:45  
TO BE TRANSMITTED  
CONFIDENTIAL CODE  
NONCONFIDENTIAL CODE  
PARTAIR  
PLAIN

Washington,

- 2 -

British contemplate instructing Chargé d'Affaires to put this suggestion before Italian authorities if it seems likely decree will be enforced. British Embassy inquires whether we will take similar action. Similar inquiry is being made of French and German governments.

In submitting your comments and recommendations please indicate effect which enforcement of decree would have upon importation of American journals.

W.S.  
NE: PHA GCA  
M. *[Signature]*  
J. *[Signature]*  
WE *[Signature]*  
TC *[Signature]*  
RW *[Signature]*  
R. *[Signature]*  
10/8

*Hall Carr, Acting*

Enciphered by \_\_\_\_\_

Sent by operator \_\_\_\_\_ M., \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DIVISION OF NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS

October 12, 1936.

Memorandum

The information contained in telegram No. 584 of October 11 from Addis Ababa was conveyed orally today to Mr. Broadmead, Secretary of the British Embassy. Mr. Broadmead stated that he thought this oral reply would be adequate, but that if Mr. Mallett, the Counselor, desired something further from us he would request it upon his return to Washington.

P. H. Alling

# TELEGRAM RECEIVED

U

This telegram must be  
closely paraphrased  
before being communicated ~~FROM~~  
to anyone. (A)

Addis Ababa

Dated October 11, 1936

Rec'd 8:50 a.m.

Secretary of State

Washington

584, October 11, 2 p.m.

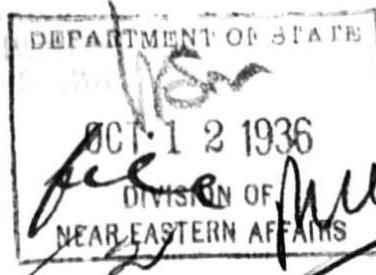
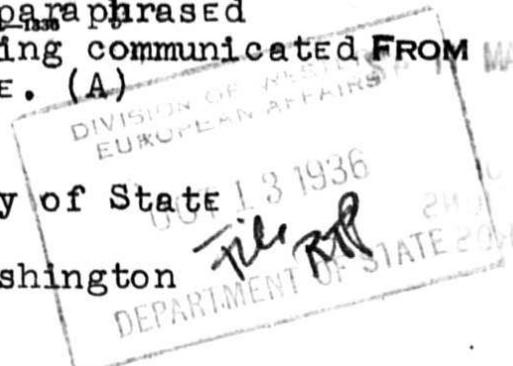
Department's 369, October 8, 6 p.m.

Decree in question was never issued and to my  
knowledge no foreign newspapers except possibly Communist  
papers are being excluded. American newspapers and mag-  
azines are being received both by the Legation and resi-  
dents.

Draft to which British Embassy refers is undated and  
was presumably not intended for circulation. It was cer-  
tainly not taken seriously by anybody and I told British  
Charge d'Affaires and several other colleagues last June  
when we first heard of it that I considered it too absurd  
to merit notice. List appears to have been prepared by an  
illiterate local Greek news vendor--hence the generous  
number of Greek papers--while his French list has fur-  
nished no end of amusement ever since it became known.

I believe the Italian authorities have every intention  
of dropping the matter and I shall suggest to my British  
colleague that he recommend to his government that it drop  
it too. Of course if the Italians should revive it the

only



865D-918/2

GC

OCT 14 1936  
FILED

U -2- #584, Oct. 11, 2 p.m. from Addis Ababa

only logical arrangement is the one mentioned in your  
369 and the Department may depend upon my insisting that  
no American publication is excluded except for good reason.

ENGERT

CSB

Central File: Decimal File 865D.918, Internal Affairs Of States, Public Press., Italian East Africa, Restriction Of The Press. Censorship., October 11, 1936. 11 Oct. 1936. MS European Colonialism in the Early 20th Century. National Archives (United States). Archives Unbound, <link.gale.com%2Fapps%2Fdoc%2FSC5109727937%2FGDS%3Fu%3Domni%26sid%3Dbookmark-GDSC>. Accessed 18 June 2025.